

Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

June 2021 | www.hs2.org.uk

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. We are continually reviewing the works on our construction sites in line with Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice on dealing with COVID-19. The Government's current strategy makes it clear that construction activity can continue as long as it complies with this guidance.

Please be assured that only sites that can operate within the guidelines are operational. All sites will remain under constant review. We have postponed all face-to-face engagement events and meetings and have put in place a number of channels to communicate with communities, such as letters and phone calls, as well as updates and alerts from each of the local community websites. You can sign up for regular updates in your local area at www.hs2innorthants.co.uk

What will we be doing?

We recently wrote to you with information about the construction of a temporary welfare set up and archaeology works. We now need to let you know about the next phase of works which include ecology mitigation, vegetation clearance and the translocation of marshland at Trafford Bridge near Edgcote. This work will enable the construction of the Edgcote Viaduct. The enabling works will be delivered in two phases;

Phase 1 - End of June until September 2021

- Site welfare, laydown area, small car park establishment
- Ecology surveys and vegetation clearance
- Ongoing archaeological investigations
- Welsh Road, Local full road closure

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Notification



Duration of works

Works will begin at the end of June and be completed by end of March 2022

What to expect

To complete this work, we need to; complete ecology surveys, clear vegetation, undertake planting and transfer marshland turf.

Road closures on Welsh Road with diversion routes

You may notice some extra traffic on the roads and noise from the machinery. Our normal working hours are between 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday – Friday and Saturday 8:00am – 1:00pm

What we will do

We will be working hard to ensure any impact on residents is kept to a minimum during these works.

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Notification



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Site compound

A site welfare and parking area is being set up off Welsh Road to facilitate these works. The set up will begin from end of June 2021 and will be used for welfare vehicles, staff car parking and the site storage of machinery and materials. The site will be secured with 24/7 security and be constructed from track matting with low level temporary lighting.

Ecology surveys and vegetation clearance

Ecological surveys have been completed in relation to species such as great crested newts and reptiles. Following on from these surveys we will continue to carry out the seasonal mitigation works for these species; these works will continue until September 2021 and will include vegetation clearance once all ecology has been removed.

The works will predominantly take place at Trafford Bridge which will involve temporary newt fencing to capture and safely relocate the newts to a receptor site. Works will involve a small team of up to 10 ecologists working from mobile welfare units.

There will be further ecological and tree surveys undertaken of the vegetation that we need to subsequently remove.

Work will be conducted in compliance with all applicable HS2 and Natural England licenses for protected species. Before any vegetation is cleared it will be thoroughly inspected by qualified ecologists. Any protected species found to be present will be recorded, appropriate buffers established and no vegetation will be cleared until the species have left the site, including any nesting birds. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken in accordance with:

- HS2 Organisational European Protected Species Licence for Badger WML-024
- HS2 Organisational European Protected Species Great for Crested Newt Licences WML025
- Licencing applications to Natural England for bats

Further details are available online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-environmental-statement-volume-5-ecology>

The work on HS2 is guided by High-Speed Rail (LondonWestMidlands) Act 2017.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/7/contents/enacted>

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Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

Notification



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Welsh Road closure

To enable us to access the area from the highway to install a ditch crossing and construct the welfare area we will need to temporarily close Welsh Road and put in place a diversion route.

For the works vehicles over 7.5tonne will be requested to utilise the A361 and then along Welsh Road from the Aston le Walls crossroads for access to and from the site, avoiding the villages of Edgcote, Chipping Warden, Culworth and Wardington.

Full Road Closure between 09.30am until 3.30pm.

- 28 - 29 June 2021 (Subject to highway consents from the local authority)
- 12- 16 July 2021 (Subject to highway consents from the local authority)
- March 2022 (more details to follow closer to the time)

The road will be open as usual outside of these hours.

Details of the road closure and diversion routes can be found on the maps enclosed.

To notify road users of the upcoming road closure, verge advance warning signs will be erected.

The diversion signage will be in place and operated during the working hours described. Road closed signs will be removed when non-working hours resume. These verge signs will be mounted on standard A frames and secured with ballasted sandbags.

The diversion routes for the road closure can be viewed on the next page or alternatively they can be found at www.hs2innorthants.co.uk

Phase 2 – August until March 2022

Marshland translocation

Ahead of the main construction works we need to prepare the line of route. This includes the translocation of the marshland at Trafford Bridge. These works will consist of

- Vegetation removal to enable access to the 'donor' site
- The 'receptor' site will be excavated in preparation for receiving the marshland.
- Translocate the existing marshland to the nearby receptor site to form the new habitat creation area. New planting will also be installed to encourage wildlife habitat along the River Cherwell

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Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

Notification



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Marshland translocation continued

All of the above works are to be undertaken in accordance with the required consent for working within the floodplain.

Details of the donor and receptor areas can be found on the map in this notification.

The vegetation and marshland turfs will be removed by a specialist team using machinery and handheld tools.

We will be installing additional temporary track matting between the marshland and the receptor site.

Once the work has been completed the donor site will then be backfilled with stone to enable the Edgcote viaduct to be constructed.

The fenced public right of ways will remain open during the works, to ensure the safety of the public there will be designated crossing points.

What is the benefit of transferring marshland turfs?

We believe that translocating marshland turfs will provide a better outcome for these important turf resources which have developed over many hundreds of years compared to, for example, the disposal of this material to landfill. The area where the turf is moved from is known as a 'donor site' and the area where the turf will be moved to is known as a 'receptor site'. We are planning to undertake the turf transfer in the Autumn before the expected rise in river levels. In terms of turf handling, it is also considered better to undertake at this time as the turfs are less likely to be fully saturated or frozen and the turf structure (and therefore potential turf structure) is easier to preserve.

Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

Notification



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What is the benefit of transferring marshland turfs? Continued

Turf survey data has been used to design turf transfer by:

- designing and plan the work, including the selection of the most suitable transfer process;
- guiding the overseeing turf scientist and ecologist;
- providing a permanent record of the original marshland turf against which turf development in the receptor site can be compared; and,
- helping replicate the turf profile from donor to receptor site (along with other data such as hydrological conditions and topography).

Considerations such as low value and/or unsuitable turfs for transfer are assessed by a turf scientist and ecologist. Once the turfs have been transferred, daily turf checks are required during the translocation programme of both donor and receptor sites to check if turfs can be transferred and whether any remedial measure are required, such as watering or shading due to seasonal changes in climate.

Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

Notification



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Location of road closure and diversion route



Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434**

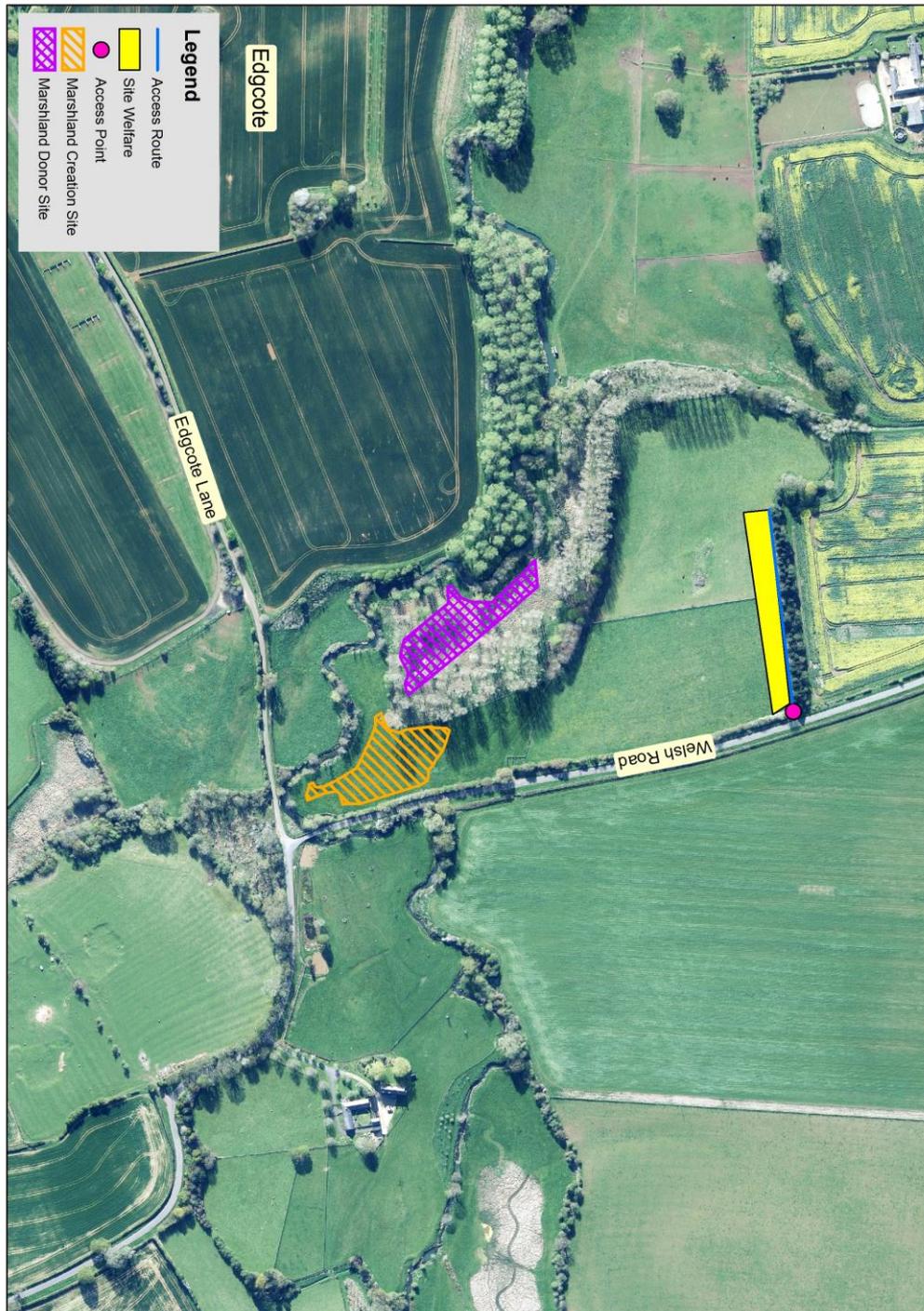
Notice of works at Trafford Bridge, Edgcote

Notification



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Location of works



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Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner by emailing: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property
Find out if you're eligible for compensation at: www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

Contact Us

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk**

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